John C. Stennis
Carrier Strike Group
N6 Post Deployment Brief
27 July 2011 – 02 March 2012

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Voice over Secure Internet Protocol (VOSIP)

Observations

- Reliable, secure comms relied on for Strike Group, Warfare Commander, CO, TAO, LNO discussions
- Secure, easy to use, high quality, joint, quick, affordable ~$250 (v. $3k/STE)
- No keymat required, less admin/overhead
- Non-std install approval ISO C5F Ops
  - C5F 170547ZOCT11

Discussion

- Once installed and configured in C7F, VOSIP quickly became the comms path of choice for secure phone calls.
- Supported OPSEC
- Used extensively for Air Defense Exercises with the CAOC
- Relied on for Warfare Commander synchronization

Recommendations

- ❑ Fund call managers at fleet NOCs
- ❑ Establish as a program of record
- ❑ Expand to unsecure VoIP
  - ◘ Allows for dynamic bandwidth allocation for phones

Strike Group Commander's tool of choice. If he could spend one more dollar…

Full Motion Video (FMV)

Observations

- JCSSG Strait of Hormuz transits
  - 20 Sep 11 (inbound) CDLS
  - 8 Oct 11 (outbound) CDLS, Rover 4/5
  - 12 Nov 11 (inbound) MC2
  - 27 Dec 11 (outbound) CDLS, MC2

Discussion

- Critical for situational awareness:
  - Used to identify unknown contacts
  - Critical to identify and track Warships
  - Verify intent
  - Monitor counter-piracy events and relay to HHQ for public affairs
- Video streamed to warfare commander watch stations via SIPR
- Real-time streaming to NAVCENT limited

Recommendations

- ❑ Fund FMV as a Program of Record
- ❑ Standardize CPED, establish Navy wide CONOP, TTPs
- ❑ Develop video feed for both internal viewing and external (HHQ)
- ❑ Exercise use during FRTP

JCSSG MC2 Video Scout install

Ad-hoc installation not ideal. Need fully developed solution.

Global Broadcast System (GBS)

Observations

- Potential to be a great resource
  - Split IP, Imagery (standing deck and ad-hoc), UAV (Predator/Raptor), TURBULENT WAVE, Legacy web downloads, 3 TV Channel broadcast
- No formal IT technician or end user training
  - Very little knowledge at CSG/CVN
- Difficult to manage
  - Broadcast footprint, theater chops, different process for each fleet

Discussion

- Critical for imagery downloads
- Other than imagery, GBS added little value
- Shore support not available 24x7
- Legacy web downloads were incomplete and not useful
- Maintaining system is manpower intensive

Recommendations

- ❑ Establish CONOP
- ❑ Establish formal GBS training for users and technicians-like 'ISNS end to end training'
- ❑ Exercise use during FRTP
- ❑ Establish standardized fleet Global Mission Requests (GMR) and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP)
- ❑ Make legacy web downloads transparent to users
  - ❑ Seed web cache with downloads

Untapped Potential

Too unreliable to rely on

Link Redundancy for Reliability

Observations

- Systems are fragile
- Utilized every data path and piece of equipment to keep COP
  - RF/Sat Link 16, HF/UHF Link 11, JREAP-C
- Large AOR required extensive use of SAT J and JREAP-C

Discussion

- High number of CRUDES CASREPs
  - Avg fix 2.5 wks.
- C5F JNL problems
- Shutdown of Link 16 towers in Iraq forced HF Link 11 as long haul link
- Ships conducting similar missions had to use SAT J/HF 11/JREAP-C
- Joint community using JREAP-C almost exclusively

Recommendations

- Maintain redundancy on link systems
- JREAP-C is way of future operations, connectivity easier
- Expedite fielding of Next Generation Command and Control Processor (NCG2P)
- Establish forward deployed Maintenance Assistance Module (MAMs) with high fail cards and chassis
- Establish forward deployed tech support

LINK Frequencies

Observation

- The Joint Information Control Officer (JICO) requires the use of frequencies listed in the Numbered Fleet Commanders OPTASK Link.

Discussion

- While deployed, transiting Strike Groups utilized link frequencies promulgated in the numbered fleet's OPTASK link vice frequencies provided by the standing CSG communications plan provided by the numbered Fleet Commander.
- While in C5F, the NMCSO disapproved C5F OPTASK Link frequencies for CSG maritime operations.

Recommendation

- Coordination required between various joint and Navy/Marine Corps spectrum offices to ensure no frequency conflict exist and frequencies are authorized for use throughout the AOR.

IP reliance

Observations

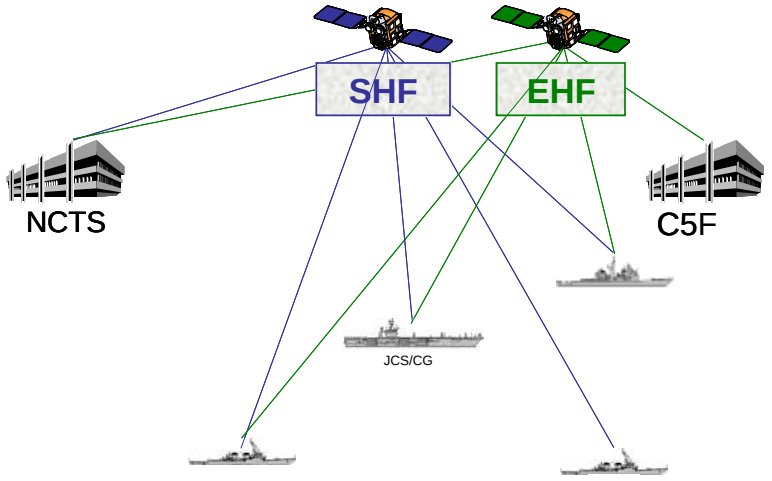
- All Strike Group functions are increasingly dependent on IP services
- Mission critical: time sensitive I&W feeds, command and control systems, NSAnet access, EP-3 and BAMS-D imagery, FMV, VTC, VOSIP, Logistic, Medical
- SHF cutovers can be difficult
- ADNS is single point of failure

Discussion

- Redundancy is required to support war fighting
- Using SHF cross-patch, 8 Mbps DSCS carried NIPR services, routinely saturated
- Intelligence community migrated to reach back support, heavily dependent on IP services
- Unacceptable outages during SHF cutovers

Recommendations

- ❑ Redundancy required in satellites, frequencies and data paths
- ❑ Continue funding for SHF DSCS and CBSP
- ❑ Pursue larger allocation of bandwidth as an increasing number of war fighting systems are dependent on IP services
- ❑ Implement smart bandwidth usage
  - ◘ Authorized compression software
  - ◘ Acceleration
- ❑ LNO at shore station during cutovers



C7F SATCOM Coverage GAP

Observations

- Transiting westbound from the Strait of Malacca, we experienced a UHF SATCOM coverage gap.
- Same gap in coverage experienced during eastbound transit

Discussion

- Impact:
  - No dedicated CSG DAMA package
  - No UHF DAMA voice communications with CTF 70
  - No dedicated GBS spot beam
  - Loss of LR SPRAC coverage

Recommendations

- ❑ Educate strike groups on expectations and coverage during transit. Two false planning assumptions for the last 3 CSGs:
  - ◘ C7F/CTF 70 knew about the gap in coverage
  - ◘ CSG DAMA package would transition to next UFO Satellite
  - ◘ Pursue solution address coverage gap

We were not the first CSG to transit, but it seemed that way.

HYDRA

Observation

- HYDRA Radio use is restricted in all Gulf Co-operative Countries in order to avoid interference with trunked mobile radio systems.
- Similar restrictions exist in the 7th Fleet AOR for Japan port visits.

Discussion

- Ships must request approval from 5th Fleet N6 and NMCSO CENT Bahrain at least 96 hours prior to entering any port.
- Contact Numbers for each ship is required for an individual who can immediately secure transmissions if necessary.

Recommendation

- Channelization plans for each ship must be provided to the Strike Group Staff N6 and N39 shops prior to deployment to avoid delays in approval to operate.
- Securing of topside antennas will alleviate interference issues while still meeting Force Protection requirements.

RSN – USN PASSEX

Observation

- PASSEX conducted with the Republic of Singapore Navy and the John C. Stennis Strike Group from 30 Jan -02 Feb 12.
- Exercise was conducted using UHF LOS communications with HF as a backup. This required each ship to re-configure their communications suite.

Discussion

- RSN-USN Planning conference was held at Changi Naval Base on 27 January. RSN communications requirements were more extensive than previously briefed by CTF 73 (4 UHF/HF voice nets, 2 UHF/HF Link). RSN listed over 20 VHF/UHF/HF voice and data nets.
- Minimal attendance by JCSSG personnel hampered dissemination of information.

Recommendation

- Warfare Commanders must provide input for communications guard requirements.
- Senior Leadership must be briefed on guard requirements and changes to standing communications configuration.

Additional Information

- RSN conducts all exercises in local time vice Zulu.
- Plain voice used due to non-compatible encryption devices on RSN ships. RSN expects to have new crypto gear by summer of 2012.
- RSN very pleased with level of participation of USN and communications excellence.

N6 LL Topics

- **VOSIP**
- **FMV: MC2 Video Scout, Rover, Hawklink, CDLS**
- **GBS: Imagery (standing deck and ad-hoc), Legacy web scrapes, Predator, TURBULENT WAVE, Split IP, TV broadcast**
- **JADOCS**
- **Airwing NMCI embarkables**
- **Airwing Tactical iPads**
- **Link redundancy and spares**
- **CTN skill set in the CSG**
- **IAVA's**
- **CENTRIXS peripherals**
- **IAWF training**
- **C7F SATCOM dead zone**
- **IP reliance**
- **COMPOSE software issues**
- **JCS ISNS**
- **SIPR REL for UK Pilot**
- **HBSS**
- Intel Systems: DCGS-N, TSVOSIP, Gale Lite Proforma Feed
- JICO: GCCS/CV-TSC; install Tacview for ADC
- distance support, VRAM, Retina
- Goods: JADOCs, C5F support, VTC, CTF 50 CAS, CENTRIXS CAS, CENTRIXS ISAF, Hawklink, DCO, COOPEX, Comms Denied tabletop, Fighting Hurt drills, SHF Cross patch